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Clean Claims

(All claims shown)

What is claimed is :

-13-

1. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use, comprising the steps of:

determining if Identity system/information, is existing in a processing apparatus under control of a user ;

using said Identity system/information being determined as existing as a pre-condition for causing said processing apparatus to provide said user access to said software desired to be protected ;

wherein :

said Identity system/information, if so existing, being capable of being used in enabling electronic commerce operation(s) ;

access to said software desired to be protected is being provided without causing a said operation being performed and said identity system/information being specific to rightful user(s) of said software desired to be protected .

2. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use , as claimed in claim 1, wherein further comprising the steps of :

authenticating said Identity system/information ;

determining said Identity system/information as existing, if said Identity system/information being determined as authentic and as not existing if otherwise .

3. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use , as claimed in claim 12, wherein said software desired to be protected being first software used on said processing apparatus for determining third information related to hardware and/or software of said processing apparatus ;

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-14-

wherein further comprising second software for, when being executed, authenticating the computer on which said second software runs as being said processing apparatus, basing on at least a part of said third information; and for providing user access to third software if said computer being determined as authentic .

4. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said operation being operation related to making payment from an account of said rightful user(s) , for obtaining a service/product.

5. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said software desired to be protected comprises a plurality of protected programs; each of said protected programs having validity information in a first predetermined location therein for indicating a valid identity of its rightful user exists in a second predetermined location therein , and an encrypted identity of its rightful user therein; and each of said protected programs, when being executed, will fail to operate if said validity information therein being altered, or said identity therein and the decryption result of said encrypted identity therein being inconsistent.

6. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use, as claimed in claim 5, wherein further comprising the steps of:
storing an encrypted identity of a user in said processing apparatus ; and if all of said protected programs stored in said processing apparatus has a valid user identity which being consistent with the decryption result of said stored encrypted identity, permitting use of said protected programs and not permitting if otherwise.

-15-

7. A computer software product for protecting software publicly distributed against unauthorised use ;

said software product comprising :

identity program code for enabling electronic commerce operation(s) ;

authorising software for, when executed, providing user access to said software desired to be protected, without causing a said operation being performed ;

a computer readable medium storing said identity program code and said authorising software ;

wherein :

said identity program code and said authorising software are stored in said medium in such a manner that said authorising software is prevented from being copied therefrom individually; and

the improvement resides in said protection basing on no specific hardware and/or software other than said identity program code and said identity program code being specific to rightful user(s) of said software desired to be protected .

8. A computer software product as claimed in claim 7, wherein said operation being operation related to making payment from an account of said rightful user(s) .

9. A computer software product as claimed in claim 7, wherein said authorising software contains said identity program code therein and said computer readable medium being in form of data signal embodied in a carrier wave.

-18-

10. A computer software product for protecting other software against unauthorised use, comprising:

authorising program for, when being executed, causing a processing apparatus to provide user access to said software desired to be protected;

a computer readable medium storing said authorising program;

wherein:

information specific to rightful user(s) of said software desired to be protected, exists in said authorising program as a part thereof;

said existing information being capable of being used in enabling electronic commerce operation(s), but not being usable by said processing apparatus for said electronic commerce purpose, when said authorising program being loaded on said processing apparatus as a part thereof, and access to said software desired to be protected is being provided without causing a said operation being performed.

11. A computer software product as claimed in claim 10, wherein said operation being operation related to making payment from an account of said rightful user(s) and said computer readable medium being in form of data signal embodied in a carrier wave.

12. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a first information from a user of a processing apparatus having an identity software/means therein;

using said first information received being correct as a pre-condition for causing said processing apparatus to provide said user access to said software desired to be protected;

wherein:

-17-

said identity software/means being for providing a second information specific to rightful user(s) of said software desired to be protected, if said correct first information is being obtained from a user thereof ;

and said second information being capable of being used in enabling electronic commerce operation(s) ;

access to said software desired to be protected is being provided without causing a said operation being performed.

13. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use, as claimed in claim 12, wherein said operation being operation related to making payment from an account of said rightful user(s) and said first information being a password.

14. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use , comprising the steps of :

authenticating identity information/system associated with a processing apparatus under control of a user ;

using said identity information/system being determined as authentic as a pre-condition for causing said processing apparatus to provide said user access to said software desired to be protected ;

wherein said identity information/system existing in such a manner that said identity information/system being capable of being used in enabling electronic commerce operation(s) ;

wherein access to said software desired to be protected is being provided without causing a said operation being performed and said identity information/system being specific to rightful user(s) of said software desired to be protected .

-18-

15. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use , as claimed in claim 14, wherein said operation being operation related to making payment from an account of said rightful user(s).

16. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use , comprising the steps of :

- (a) obtaining by protection software running on a processing apparatus, say, first processing apparatus, first information from the user thereof ;
- (b) determining by said protection software, from said processing apparatus second information related to the hardware or/and software thereof for future reference in step (c) below, in response to said first information obtained being consistent with third information contained in said protection software ; thereafter
- (c) authenticating a processing apparatus, say, second processing apparatus , basing on at least a part of said second information ;
- (d) using said second processing apparatus being determined as authentic as a pre-condition for permitting use of said software desired to be protected on said second processing apparatus ;

wherein said third information being confidential information of a rightful user of said software desire to be protected and being necessary for enabling electronic transaction(s) for which said rightful user has to be responsible ; and said method is being performed without causing a said transaction take place .

17. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use, as claimed by claim 12, wherein said software desired to be protected being purchased commercial software.

-18-

18. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use, by restricting the use thereof to be under control of a single person, comprising a sub-method ; said sub-method comprising the steps of :

- (a) establishing a communication between a processing apparatus, say, first processing apparatus and a remote electronic transaction system ;
- (b) verifying said person having a valid account, by said remote electronic transaction system, basing on authenticated information related to said person , said information being communicated to said remote electronic transaction system from said processing apparatus ;
- (c) using a valid account being verified as a pre-condition for determining from said processing apparatus information related to the hardware or/and software thereof, for future reference in step (d) below ; thereafter
- (d) authenticating a processing apparatus, say, second processing apparatus, basing on at least a part of said information related to said hardware or/and software ;
- (e) using said second processing apparatus being determined as authentic as a pre-condition for permitting use of said software on said second processing apparatus, with no charge ;

wherein said sub-method a cost is being charged from said account ; and thereafter, said sub-method being capable of being used on a processing apparatus, say, third processing apparatus , without re-charging from said account said cost .

19. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use, as claimed by claim 18, wherein no charge for repeating said sub-method .

-20-

20. A method for protecting software, publicly distributed through a communications network, for use by a user, from unauthorised use ; comprising a sub-method ;

wherein said sub-method a protection software being used and "the presence of Identity information/system in a processing apparatus" is being used in the creation of said protection software as a pre-condition for said protection software to perform in said processing apparatus step (a) below ; and said Identity information/system being specific to said user and capable of being used in enabling electronic commerce operation(s) for which said user has to be responsible ;

said sub-method comprising the steps of :

- (a) determining by said protection software running on a processing apparatus, say, first processing apparatus with said precondition being met, first information related to the hardware or/and software of said first processing apparatus, for future reference in step (c) below ; thereafter
- (b) determining from a processing apparatus, say, second processing apparatus, second information related to the hardware or/and software thereof;
- (c) determining if said second information is consistent with said first information ;
- (d) using said two information being determined as coinsistence as a pre-condition for permitting use of said software desired to be protected on said second processing apparatus ;

thereafter, said sub-method being capable of being used on a processing apparatus, say, third processing apparatus, without causing any user responsible operation(s) being performed therefor and with no step relating to a new user payment therefor .

-21-

21. A method for verifying identity of a user of a data processing apparatus, comprising the steps of :

receiving, by said data processing apparatus, information specific to a user and necessary for accessing an account of said user ;

verifying said account being valid, by an electronic transaction system, by use of said information received by said data processing apparatus;

using by said data processing apparatus, said account validity being verified as a pre-condition for providing user access to at least a part of the functionality of said data processing apparatus ;

wherein said method is being performed without charging said account and said at least a part of functionality being not related to said validity status of said account.

-22-

22. A software product comprising computer code for causing one or more processing apparatus to perform the method of claim 1, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 or 21 ;

a computer readable medium storing said computer code.